



# FACT SHEET

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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### SILVER FLAG EXERCISE SITE

The Silver Flag Exercise Site located at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. is home to Detachment 1 of the 823 RED HORSE Squadron, and is part of Air Combat Command. The squadron is home-based at Hurlburt Field, Fla. The detachment's mission is to provide professional crew task certification free from home-station constraints where civil engineer and services people can train and practice in a realistic environment.

Silver Flag teaches combat support to specialists from active-duty units, the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command and allied nations. Students hone their combat skills such as repairing bomb-damaged runways, setting up base facilities, disposing explosives and similar wartime survival skills. Simultaneously, units also practice providing food service and lodging under simulated wartime conditions. Silver Flag also hosts officer field education three times annually, as part of the Air Force Institute of Technology's Introduction to Base Civil Engineer Organization and Services Initial Skills courses.

More than 6,000 people working in civil engineer and services career field train each year at the site. The primary course lasts five days and consists of classroom instruction and field exercises. Approximately 160 people train each week.

The Air Force also holds a biennial, worldwide competition known as Readiness Challenge at the Silver Flag site. This competition tests the leadership, teamwork and warfighting skills of deployable personnel from civil engineering, services, public affairs and the chaplain service under field conditions. It measures a unit's ability to function as a team; to "bed down" and sustain air power; and to provide quick recovery after attack. The staff of Detachment 1 plans and executes competition events and acts as host for the several hundred visitors and participants who come to the area for the international competition.

Originally, training was conducted at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, but moved to Tyndall in 1972. Training at that time consisted primarily of bed down, demolition, well-drilling and security operations. In 1979 training moved to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., near Ft. Walton Beach, to take advantage of an unused runway and taxiway system. Silver Flag training returned to Tyndall in 1992.

The site is located on 1,000 acres north of U.S. Highway 98, about eight miles east of Tyndall's main gate. It has 21 permanent buildings and a 6,000 foot training runway. The present facility was constructed at a cost of \$12 million and its opening on Aug. 3, 1992, returned Air Force civil engineer training to one of its earliest homes.

Over the years, training has expanded to its current program, which includes advanced base recovery after attack, disaster preparedness, fire protection, explosive ordnance disposal, food service and lodging skills, and chemical warfare operations.

**Point of contact**

For more information about the 823<sup>rd</sup> RED HORSE Squadron, call (850) 881-2195. To speak with someone from the squadron's Detachment 1, call (850) 283-8704. Air Combat Command Public Affairs can be reached at (804) 764-5008.

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